CALIFORNIA ALL | BROADBAND FOR ALL

Digital Equity Planning Grant
Tribal Technical Assistance Workshop

July 5th, 2022

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introduction

- California Digital Equity Planning Overview

- NTIA Digital Equity Planning Grant Steps to Apply

- Q & A : Digital Equity Plan and Letter of Intent

- Closing

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What is the State Digital Equity Plan (SDEP)?

California will receive funding to develop a State Digital Equity Plans (SDEP) to identify barriers to digital equity and solutions.

Includes measurable objectives for promoting:	Assesses how digital inclusion impacts outcomes in:
• Access to fixed and wireless broadband • Online accessibility and inclusivity of public resources • Digital literacy • Awareness and use of measures to secure online privacy and cybersecurity • Access to devices and technical support	• Economic and workforce development • Education • Health • Civic and social engagement • Delivery of social services

OBDL Commitment to Partnership and Collaboration

Meaningful engagement that prioritizes **eight "Covered Populations"**

#1   Low-income individuals

#2   Aging individuals

#3   Incarcerated individuals (other than those incarcerated in a Federal correctional facility)

#4   Veterans

#5   Individuals with disabilities

#6   Members of racial or ethnic minority groups

#7   Individuals residing in a rural area

#8   Individuals with literacy barriers (including individuals who are English learners and have low levels of literacy)

Tribal engagement will include:

#1   A coordination, outreach, and collaboration strategy with Tribes

#2   An inventory of existing resources, programs, strategies or plans among Tribal governments

#3   Alignment of State Digital Equity Plan with Tribal digital equity plans

Timeline

Deadline for Planning
Grant Application

1 year to develop
State DE Plan

State Capacity Grant
Implementation

July 12th, 2022 → **Before October 2022** → **Fall 2023** → **Late 2023/Early 2024** → **5-year implementation**

Planning Funds
Received

State Capacity Grant
NOFO expected

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OVERVIEW OF THE DIGITAL EQUITY PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM

Digital Equity Act created three programs to promote digital equity and inclusion

Funding pool
$2.75B

Three programs that provide funding to promote digital inclusion and advance equity for all. They aim to ensure that all communities can access and use affordable, reliable high-speed internet to meet their needs and improve their lives.
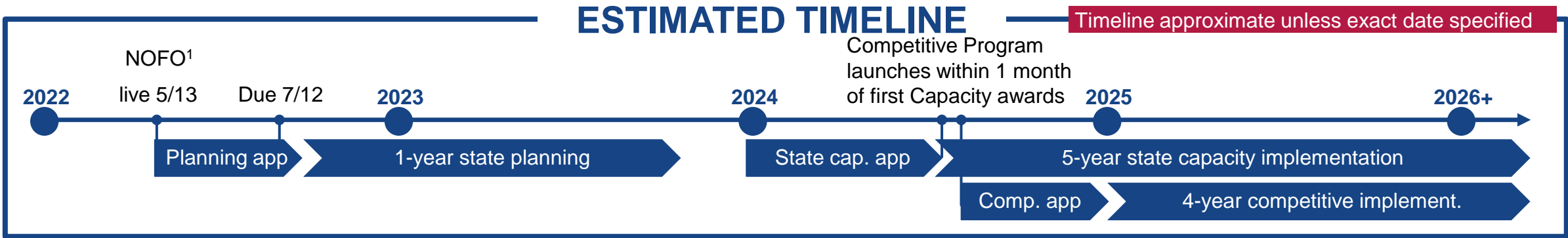
PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTS

The Digital Equity Act created three programs:

State Planning
- $60M formula funding program to develop digital equity plans

State Capacity
- $1.44B formula funding program to implement plans & promote digital inclusion

Competitive
- $1.25B to implement digital equity and inclusion activities

Example eligible uses of funds across three programs include:

- Developing digital equity plans; states must develop a plan to be eligible for state capacity grants
- Implementing digital equity plans and related activities

- Making awards to other entities to help make digital equity plans
- Providing digital literacy and digital skills education

- Improving accessibility and inclusivity of public resources
- Facilitating the adoption of high-speed Internet

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified

NOFO[1]
live 5/13   Due 7/12

2022   **2023**   **2024**   **2025**   **2026+**

Competitive Program launches within 1 month of first Capacity awards

Planning app → 1-year state planning

State cap. app → 5-year state capacity implementation

Comp. app → 4-year competitive implement.

DIGITAL EQUITY ACT OVERVIEW

There are many ways Tribal entities can participate in the Digital Equity Programs

Ways to get involved:

BEAD

- Serve as a subgrantee and carry out BEAD activities
- Engage with States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico as these entities conduct ongoing local coordination
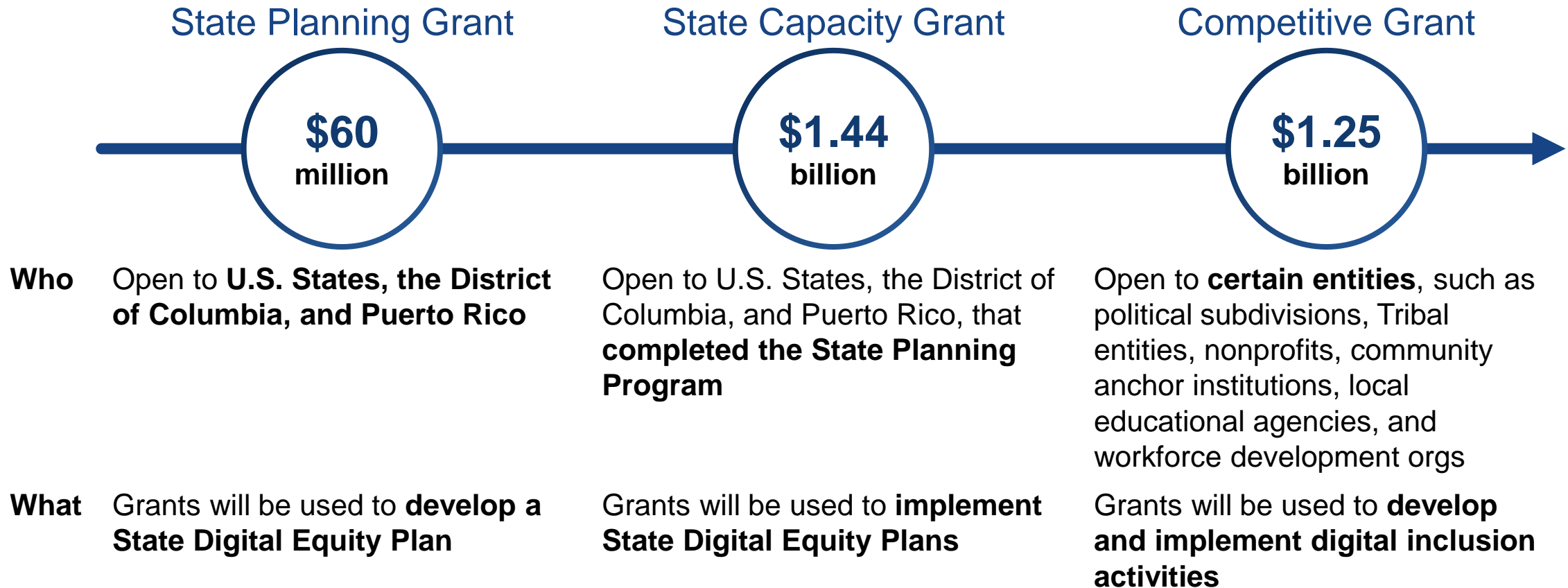
DIGITAL EQUITY

- Apply directly for grant funds set-aside for Tribal entities under the Digital Equity Act
- Engage with States as they conduct ongoing local coordination and develop their State Digital Equity Plans

MIDDLE MILE

- Apply directly for grant funds under the Middle Mile Program

The Digital Equity Act creates two distinct but correlated state formula grant programs, and a third competitive grant program

	State Planning Grant	State Capacity Grant	Competitive Grant
	$60 million	**$1.44 billion**	**$1.25 billion**
Who	Open to **U.S. States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico**	Open to U.S. States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, that **completed the State Planning Program**	Open to **certain entities**, such as political subdivisions, Tribal entities, nonprofits, community anchor institutions, local educational agencies, and workforce development orgs
What	Grants will be used to **develop a State Digital Equity Plan**	Grants will be used to **implement State Digital Equity Plans**	Grants will be used to **develop and implement digital inclusion activities**

Other U.S. territories, Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian orgs have a separate statutory set-aside and separate program requirements under the State Planning and Capacity Programs, as detailed on the next page

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The Digital Equity Act provides for separate funding set-asides for Tribal entities

5% statutory set aside

- ☆ Digital Equity Act provides that "not less than **five percent** of award grants" must be set aside annually for Tribal entities

- ☆ NTIA has reserved **$15 million** (i.e., 5% of the $300 million total amount made available by Congress - $60 million for the State Digital Equity Planning and $240 million for the Capacity Grant Program) for the 2022 fiscal year

Additional details

- ☆ Because the number of participating entities is unknown, NTIA will announce **tentative award allocations** after receiving Letters of Intent

- ☆ NTIA **expects to allocate between $50,000 and $150,000 this year to each** participating Tribal entity and will distribute funds evenly

- ☆ In future years, the Assistant Secretary **may add unclaimed** State Digital Equity **Capacity Grant funds** to the set-asides for U.S. territories, other than Puerto Rico, and Tribal entities

Funds can be used to create Tribal digital equity plans, help entities support State plans, and implement plans
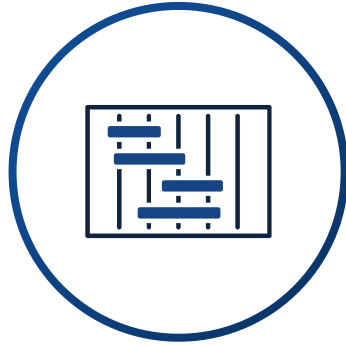
Uses of Initial Funds Allocation
Set-Asides from the Planning Grant Program

- Developing **Tribal digital equity plans**
- Supporting **Tribal participation and equity interests** in the creation of relevant State Digital Equity Plans

Uses of Balance of Reserved Funds
Set-Asides from the Capacity Grant Program

- **Implementing** digital equity plans with activities such as:
  - Pursuing **digital inclusion activities**
  - Facilitating **adoption** of high-speed Internet
  - Executing **workforce development programs**
  - Making **equipment and software** available
  - Constructing/upgrading **public access computer centers**

Funding for other territories and Tribal entities has been reserved proportionally from the State Digital Equity Planning and the Capacity Grant Programs.

The NOFO lists State Digital Equity Plan requirements; some may not be applicable to Tribal entities (I/II)

1 The **identification of the barriers to digital equity** faced by covered populations

2 **Measurable objectives for documenting & promoting** broadband technology; the online accessibility of public resources and services; digital literacy; secure online privacy / cybersecurity; consumer devices and tech support

3 An assessment of how the **objectives will impact and interact** with the State's economic and workforce goals; health, education and civic engagement outcomes; and delivery of other essential services

4 A description of how the State **plans to collaborate with key stakeholders** (e.g., anchor institutions, municipal government, educational agencies, non-profits) to achieve objectives

5 A list of organizations with which the administering entity for the State **collaborated in developing and implementing the Plan**

6 A stated **vision for digital equity**

7 A **digital equity needs assessment**, including an assessment of the baseline and the State's identification of the barriers to digital equity

NTIA will work closely with each entity to agree on project deliverables, budgets, goals, and objectives that are reasonable and effective (e.g., Tribal Governments must describe any Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program awards it has received).

The NOFO lists State Digital Equity Plan requirements; some may not be applicable to Tribal entities (II/II)

8 — An **asset inventory**, including current resources and strategies that promote digital equity and existing digital equity plans and programs

9 — A **coordination and outreach strategy**, including opportunities for public comment by, collaboration with, and ongoing engagement with the covered populations and the full range of stakeholders

10 — Description of how **municipal, regional, and/or tribal digital plans will be incorporated**

11 — An **implementation strategy** (1) establishing measurable goals, objectives, proposed core activities, (2) setting out measures ensuring the plan's sustainability, and (3) adopting mechanisms to ensure that the plan is regularly evaluated and updated

12 — Explanation of how the strategy **addresses gaps in existing efforts** to address barriers to digital equity

13 — Description of how the State intends to accomplish the implementation strategy by **partnering with workforce organizations and institutions of higher learning**

14 — A **timeline** for implementation of the Plan

15 — Material indicating how the State will coordinate its use of Digital Equity Capacity Grant and **BEAD funds**

Tribal entities are among key stakeholder groups that States should coordinate with in developing Plans

Key stakeholder groups may include:

- › Community anchor institutions

- › County and municipal governments

- › Local educational agencies

- › Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, or Native Hawaiian organizations, where applicable

- › Nonprofit organizations

- › Organizations that represent covered populations

- › Civil rights organizations

- › Entities that carry out workforce development programs

- › State agencies that administer or supervise adult education or literacy activities

- › Public housing authorities

Tribal entities must apply for Digital Equity Planning Grant funds using Letters of Intent

Letter of Intent (LOI) requirements

- Signature of the governor or governing body

- Description of the entity that would administer digital equity activities under the program

- List of specific activities they intend to pursue in support of digital equity plan development

[On Tribal/Native Governing Body Letterhead]

May 16, 2022

The Honorable Alan Davidson

Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information

NTIA Administrator

US Department of Commerce

1401 Constitution Ave., NW

Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Davidson:

On behalf of [INSERT APPLICANT NAME], I am declaring our intent to participate in the State Digital Equity (DE) Program.

The [INSERT ENTITY, ORGANIZATION, DEPARTMENT, AND/OR OFFICE] will serve as the as the recipient of, and administering agent for, any Digital Equity Program award. The following individual will serve as the point of contact for all correspondence:

[INSERT NAME AND EMAIL]

In support of Digital Equity Plan development, we have identified the following activities:

[INSERT A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES THAT THE TRIBAL/NATIVE ENTITY WILL TAKE TO DEVELOP THEIR DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN. TRIBAL/NATIVE ENTITIES CAN DESCRIBE HOW THEY WILL DEVELOP THEIR OWN DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN, AND OPTIONALLY, THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELEVANT STATE PLANS)

Sincerely,

[Signed by the governing body]

Letters of Intent must be submitted by an eligible submission method by July 12

Submission Methods

Grants Portal

Email to **digitalequity@ntia.gov**

Mail or courier

Applications must be received or postmarked no later than 11:59 p.m. EDT on July 12, 2022

Entities are **encouraged** to use the NTIA Grants Portal, which can be accessed at https://grants.ntia.gov/grantsPortal/s/

After the entity submits its LOI, NTIA will then provide additional submission information and timelines in a **separate written communication**

To access the NTIA Grants Portal, entities must first register
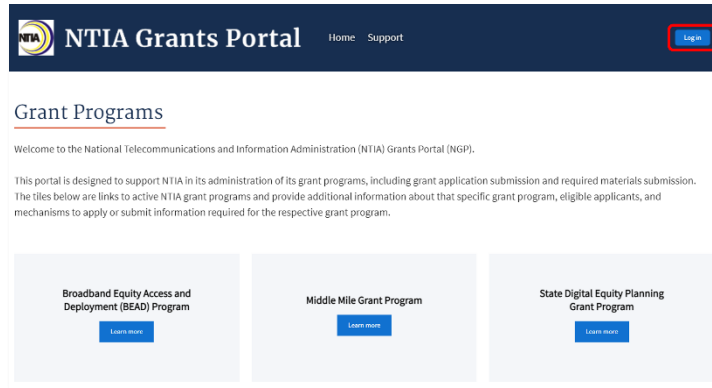
Click "Log in" to register

Click the **Log in** button in the upper right corner to sign in as a registered Portal user or to register the first time you access the Portal.
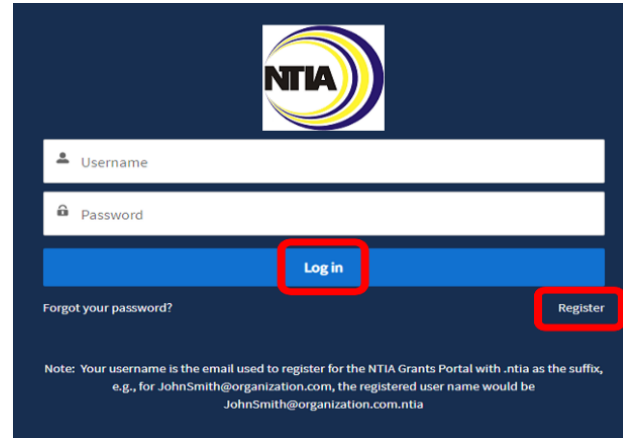
Register or log in

If new to the Portal, click the **Register** button.
If you have a username and password, enter them and click on the blue **Log in** button. Note: the email address used to register appended with **.ntia at the end** will be the username.
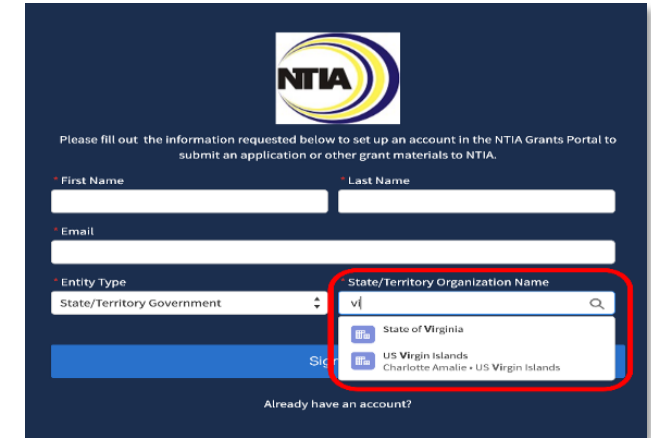
Sign up and get approved

If registering, enter your contact information, including entity type. Click **Sign up**.
Approval will be required before registration is complete. NTIA will send an approval email with a link to complete the process.
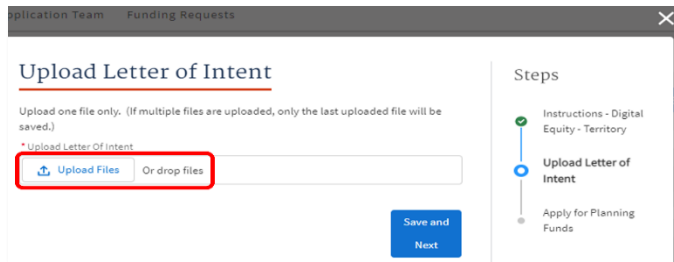
Registered users can then submit LOIs through the Portal (I/II)
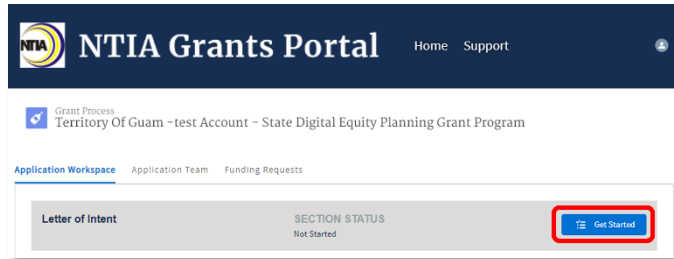

From the Application Workspace, locate the **Letter of Intent** section and click the **Get Started** button.
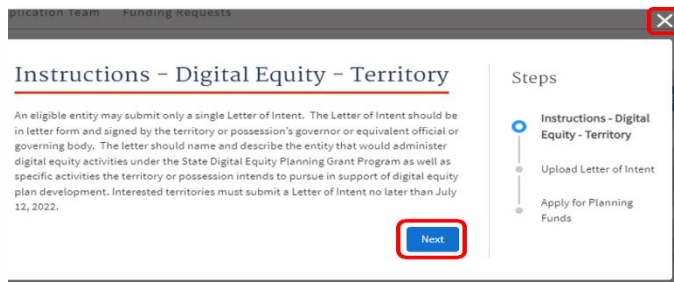
Review the Instructions for the LOI. Notice the **Steps** highlighted in the sidebar to the right. Click the **Next** button to proceed. Click the **X** in the upper right corner to return to the Application Workspace.
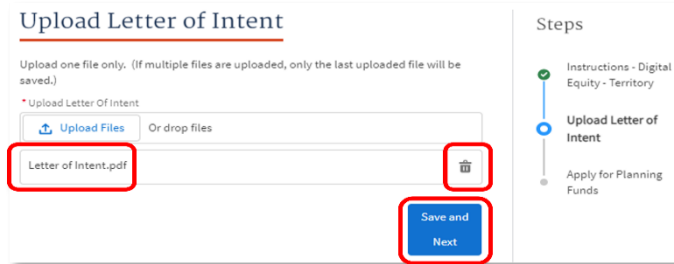

Click the **Upload Files** button to select the file(s) to upload, or drag and drop the file(s) into the upload files space.
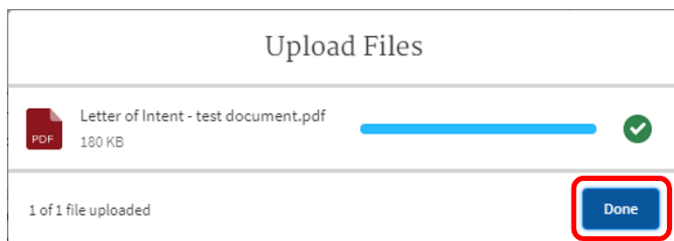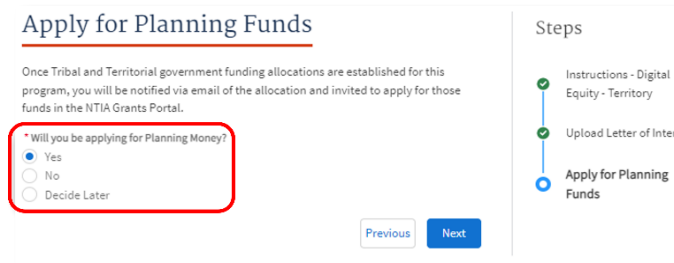

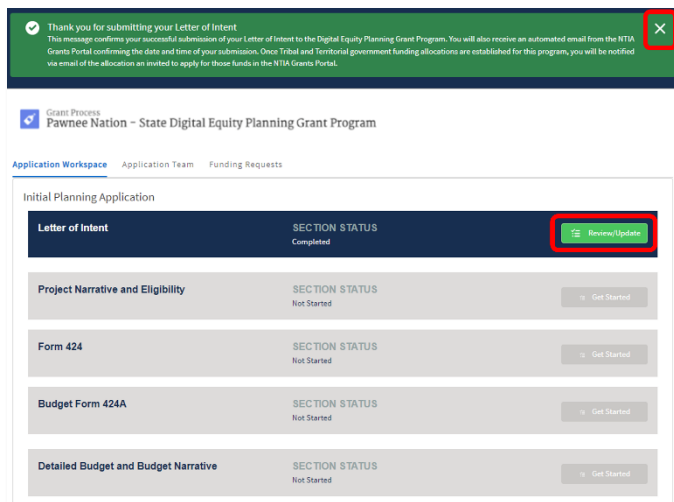
Click the **Done** button on the pop-up window.

Registered users can then submit LOIs through the Portal (II/II)

Verify the uploaded file in the Upload Letter of Intent window; click the **delete icon** to remove the file.

After uploading the Letter of Intent file(s), click the **Save and Next** button.

Select **Yes**. Then, click the **Next** button to return to the Application Workspace.

Upon completing the final step of the Letter of Intent section, a green banner with a confirmation message will appear at the top of the screen, and a confirmation email will be sent to the applicant.

To update the Status of Applying for Planning Money, or to delete and upload a new Letter of Intent, click the **Review/Update** button in the Letter of Intent section.

OTHER INFORMATION

SAM.GOV INFORMATION

- You must have an active SAM.gov account in order to receive Federal funding

- What do I need from SAM.gov in order to apply for NTIA grant funds?
  - You will need your Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number from your SAM.gov profile
  - You will also need to upload a PDF or screenshot of your SAM.gov profile showing its active status

- Can you apply for Federal funding with an inactive or pending SAM.gov?
  - If your SAM.gov account is pending or in progress, we will accept your application for review. You must provide your UEI number and an upload of your pending SAM.gov account
  - However, grant funding is contingent on your SAM.gov account becoming active– you will not be awarded if your SAM.gov account remains inactive or pending.

Helpful Links

> Internet for All Website

> https://www.internetforall.gov/

> Broadband USA Website

> https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/

> NTIA Grants Portal

> https://grants.ntia.gov/grantsPortal/s/

> Email NTIA with questions

> DigitalEquity@ntia.gov

Next steps for Tribal entities related to the broadband programs

1. Organize resources, conduct outreach within your jurisdiction, and reach out to your State broadband contact

2. Submit questions to NTIA by emailing InternetForAll@ntia.gov

3. Attend future NTIA webinars and engage with NTIA Technical Assistance for guidance across programs

4. Prepare a letter of intent for the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program by July 12

Post-Workshop Follow-ups

- Event recording, slides presentation, and transcript will be posted on the BB4All portal
  https://broadbandforall.cdt.ca.gov/past-events/

Please contact us with questions at broadbandforall@state.ca.gov